

**William Callaway to George Washington, May 15, 1758,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM WILLIAM CALLAWAY.

BEDFORD 15th May 1758

SIR

The Circumstances of affairs at this time causes my Boldness in hopes To Receive Information what was ye. Reason of our frend Indions as we Call them Returning Home if they are Returned & To inform you how we are opressed & what has hapened Last week by several Parties of Indions by Computation about 70 or 80 which Cald themselves Sumtimes Cherokees and sumtimes Shonees & has acted Vilinously Robing & Stealing, Plundering houses; Puling men of their horses striping & whipping Beating with tomahoaks & Stoning many People in so much that the People Gathering demanded Reasons & their Horses to be Returned On that they have had two scrimidges There was four white men folowed & Come up with three Indions who Put our men to defianc & shott at them several runs & then went of our white men being Joynd by seven other white men folowed ye Indions who when they Came to them was Joynd by Ten more Indions Our men Told ye Indions they were brothers & that they wanted their horses The Indions told them that they must fight for them and Prepared themselves for Battle Our People Told ye. Indions they did not want to fight they were Brothers they only wanted their horses ye Indions called themselves Shawnees & fird three guns at our men & omediatly three more & shot down Wm Hall one of our men on which although our men had not all got guns & sum of them wood not fire they Returned ye. fire so Brisk that they Kild three Indions & wounded

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several Took the stolen Horses & plunder there was one white man kild. & one wounded —Likewise another Party Comited ye. same vilony with Cuting open beds & throughing out ye. fithers & was folowed & when the white men Came near a Cap of Luningburg and a Leutenant of this County went up to talk with ye. Indions & Cald them Brothers & desird to be in frend ship with them. The Indions answd. no Brothers no Cherokees they were Shonese Took the Cap & Leutenant & strapd them & Beat Them That they were Glad to Got off naked to save Life on which the Rest of their men Pursued & Gott before the Indions & had a scurmidge with them But ye. number of Indions computed sixty or Seventy & white men about forty & sum Part of ye. white men Run before a gun fird Others Broke soon after without being of any service the Indions Kept the grounds when the white men went ye. next day there was but one Indian But many Horses & sum Bagidg The Consequence of this time only Is to determine If the Indions should be Cherokees Acting this to open a War It may Hasten the Crises if not they must Explain their frendship on better tirms Our County as well as the Neighbouring Countys is in the greatest Consternation Imaginable I thought it most Expedient to Comunicate this to you & hope you will mutely consider the Case & as we are not aprised Whether those Indions if Cherokees is diserted or not that its Quite nesary you should know their behaviour you may the better deal with those still at that place though the distance was great it must be Expedient to Comunicate the Case which I hope you will give your self the Trouble to send an answer by ye. bearer & other news if not agst. your athoritys Intrests

I shall subscribe my self your most

oblid your Hume. sert. WM. CALLAWAY